Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Public Health Division

Ontario Influenza Bulletin
2005-2006 Season

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 21 - 22 (May 21– June 3), 2006

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from May 21 – June 3, 2006 (weeks 21 and 22). The analysis for this issue occurred on Friday June 9, 2006, therefore all data is current to that date.

During the weeks 21-22 of 2006, influenza activity in Ontario was much lower compared to that of the previous two weeks. Four sporadically occurring cases of influenza (all influenza A) were reported through iPHIS. In addition, there was 1 institutional outbreak of influenza A reported. The highest level of influenza activity in Ontario was 'localized activity' reported from Toronto, Eastern and Central East regions. North West region reported 'sporadic activity'. North East, Central West, and Southwest regions each reported 'no activity' levels.

Please note: When entering sporadic influenza cases into iPHIS, under the "Aetiological agent" field, four options are available in iPHIS: "Influenza A", "Influenza B", "Influenza C" and "Influenza Virus" (no type). Please do not choose "Influenza Virus" from the pick list unless the type (i.e. A vs. B) is selected. For surveillance purposes, entering the type of influenza is essential. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Also please note that the GIS map for influenza activity levels by health unit has been temporarily replaced by a table. We apologize for the inconvenience.

For a definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached Appendix. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Shafiq Chowdhury (shafiq.chowdhury@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7807) or Anne-Luise Winter (anne-luise.winter@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7301).

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region, May 21– June 3 (Weeks 21 & 22), 2006.

Lab-confirmed Influenza cases*	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Influenza A	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unspecified †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	***0***	***0***	***0***	***1***	***3***	***0***	***0***	***4***
Institutional influenza outbreaks‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD, Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* Includes reports of sporadically occurring influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset in the surveillance period.

† Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified").

‡ Laboratory-confirmed outbreaks in institutions during the surveillance period.

Table 2: Confirmed* cases of influenza by health unit & health region, with an episode date† between May 21– June 3 (Weeks 21 & 22), 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0	0
	Ottawa	0	0	0	0
	Renfrew	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	0	0	0	0
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0	0
	York Region	0	0	0	0
	Peel Region	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Toronto	Toronto	3	0	0	3
	TOTAL TORONTO	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**
South West	Grey-Bruce	0	0	0	0
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0	0
	Huron County	0	0	0	0
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	0	0	0
	Oxford	0	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0	0
	Hamilton	0	0	0	0
	Niagara Region	0	0	0	0
	Halton Region	0	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	0	0	0	0
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***4***	***0***	***0***	***4***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases.

† Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Table 3: Cumulative* confirmed† cases of influenza by health unit & health region, September 1, 2005 to June 3, 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	7	11	0	18
	Thunder Bay District	2	2	0	4
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	***9***	***13***	***0***	***22***
North East	Algoma	12	7	7	26
	North Bay Parry Sound District	3	7	11	21
	Porcupine	10	28	3	41
	Sudbury & District	7	15	1	23
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	***32***	***57***	***22***	***111***
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	32	5	2	39
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	24	18	1	43
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	18	17	0	35
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	3	0	24	27
	Ottawa	91	18	0	109
	Renfrew	5	6	0	11
	TOTAL EASTERN	***173***	***64***	***27***	***264***
Central East	Durham Region	11	1	1	13
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	37	68	1	106
	Peterborough County-City	2	5	5	12
	Simcoe Muskoka District	56	56	18	130
	York Region	32	56	18	106
	Peel Region	80	83	14	177
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	***218***	***269***	***57***	***544***
Toronto	Toronto	316	200	1	517
	TOTAL TORONTO	***316***	***200***	***1***	***517***
South West	Grey-Bruce	32	31	2	65
	Elgin-St. Thomas	2	0	0	2
	Huron County	10	32	1	43
	Chatham-Kent	3	0	2	5
	Lambton	0	15	0	15
	Middlesex-London	29	18	4	51
	Oxford	6	16	4	26
	Perth District	4	25	1	30
	Windsor-Essex County	18	11	0	29
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	***104***	***148***	***14***	***266***
Central West	Brant	4	5	2	11
	Haldimand-Norfolk	14	8	0	22
	Hamilton	111	92	0	203
	Niagara Region	10	33	4	47
	Halton Region	51	21	16	88
	Waterloo Region	41	53	1	95
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	9	43	9	61
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	***240***	***255***	***32***	***527***
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***1092***	***1006***	***153***	***2251***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Cumulative case counts include late reports and records that are otherwise reconciled. Therefore, cumulative counts may not equal new cases plus previous cumulative value.

† Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases.

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Influenza Subtype(s):

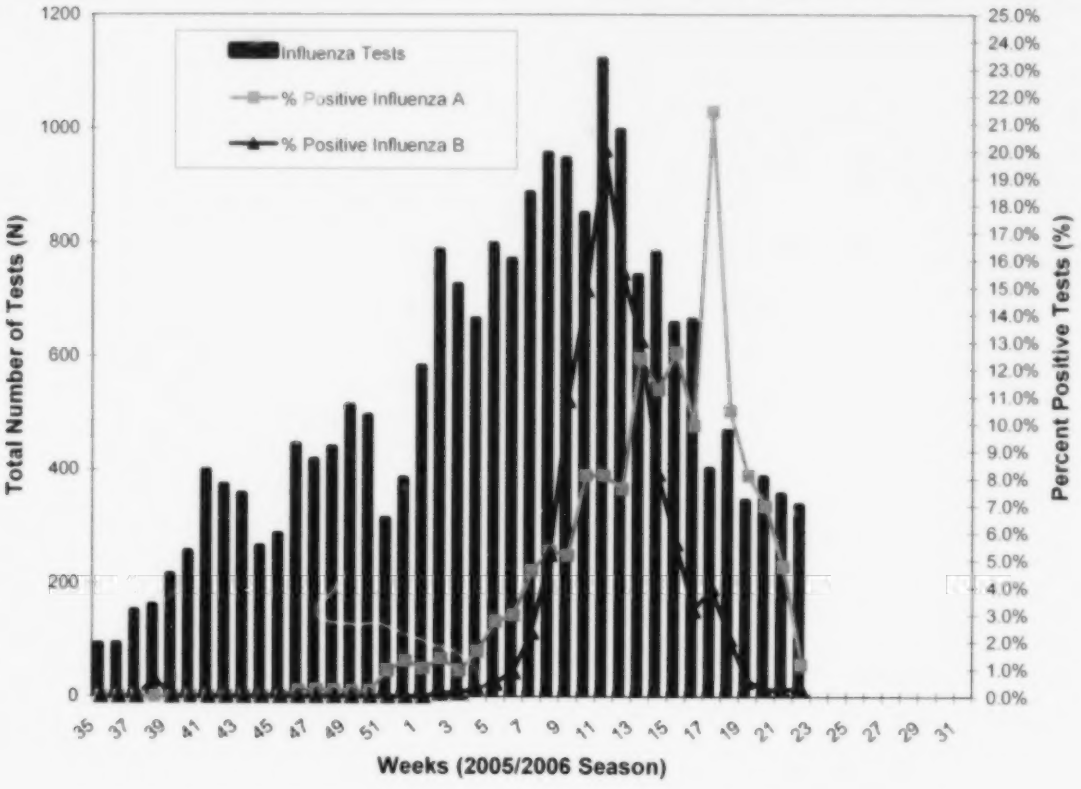
During Weeks 21 and 22, 2,384 isolates were received by the Public Health Agency of Canada, with a total of 45 and 14 testing positive for influenza A and B respectively. The majority of the influenza A isolates (21) were from Ontario (46.7%), Alberta 10 (22.2%) and Quebec 5 (11.1%). The majority of the influenza B isolates (14) were from Quebec 6 (42.9%) and New Brunswick 5 (35.7%).*

Since the start of the 2005-2006 influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 951 influenza viruses. Among these, 503 (53%) are influenza A isolates, while the remaining 448(47%) are influenza B isolates. Since March 2006, all of the influenza B viruses characterized have been B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like (B/Victoria/02/1987 lineage), which is the recommended influenza B component for next season's vaccine.**

Note: The 2005-2006 season Canadian vaccine contains an A/ New Caledonia/20/1999(H1N1)-like, an A/ California/ 7/2004(H3N2)-like, and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus strain.

* These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection table of Public Health Agency of Canada for weeks 21 & 22, 2006
** These data have been obtained from the FluWatch report of the Public Health Agency of Canada for week 20, 2006

Figure 1: Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests in Ontario reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), by report week*.



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Total numbers reported include late reports; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

Table 4: Institutional respiratory outbreaks in Ontario, September 1, 2005 to June 3, 2006

Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks

New Outbreaks*	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	1	7.7
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	1	7.7
Other organisms	1	7.7
No organism identified	10	76.9
TOTAL	***13***	***100***
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks, Season to Date**	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	122	17.1
Influenza B	20	2.8
Influenza A and B	6	0.8
Parainfluenza (All types)	46	6.5
Other organisms	95	13.3
No organism identified	425	59.5
TOTAL	***714***	***100***
Types of Institutions (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Long-Term Care Homes	596	83.4
Hospitals	44	6.2
Retirement Homes	67	9.4
Other	7	1.0
TOTAL	***696***	***100***
Outbreak Related Complications (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of cases)**
Deaths		
Residents	244	2.6
Staff	0	0.0
Pneumonia (Chest x-ray confirmed)		
Residents	445	4.6
Staff	24	0.9
Hospitalizations		
Residents	486	5.3
Staff	11	0.5

SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of the first case occurred in the current surveillance period (May 21- June 3, 2006)

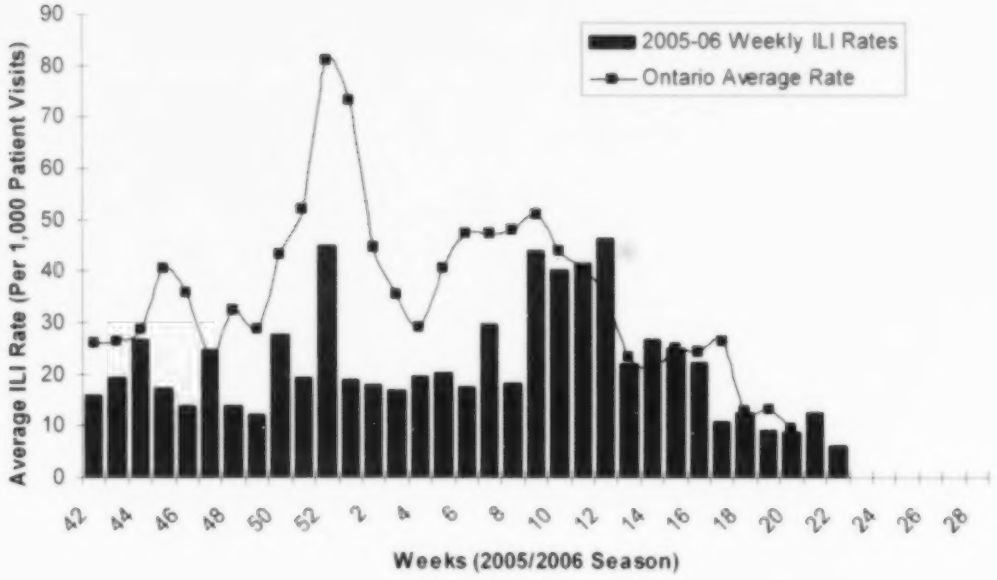
** Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of the first case occurred between September 1, 2005 and June 3, 2006

Table 5: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit & health region for weeks 21 & 22, between May 21- June 3, 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Influenza Activity* Level				
		No Report Received	No Activity	Sporadic	Localized	Widespread
North West	Northwestern			X		
	Thunder Bay District		X			
North East	Algoma		X			
	North Bay Parry Sound District		X			
	Porcupine	X				
	Sudbury & District		X			
	Timiskaming		X			
Eastern	Eastern Ontario		X			
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties				X	
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	X				
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	X				
	Ottawa			X		
	Renfrew		X			
Central East	Durham Region			X		
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District			X		
	Peterborough County-City		X			
	Simcoe Muskoka District				X	
	York Region			X		
	Peel Region			X		
Toronto	Toronto				X	
South West	Grey-Bruce		X			
	Elgin-St. Thomas		X			
	Huron County		X			
	Chatham-Kent		X			
	Lambton	X				
	Middlesex-London		X			
	Oxford	X				
	Perth District		X			
	Windsor-Essex County		X			
Central West	Brant		X			
	Haldimand-Norfolk		X			
	Hamilton		X			
	Niagara Region		X			
	Halton Region	X				
	Waterloo Region		X			
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph		X			
	TOTAL ONTARIO--------36 Health Units	***6***	***21***	***6***	***3***	***0***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix)

Figure 3: Average influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario in 2005- 2006 season, by report week, Compared to Ontario average† (1996/96 to 2004/05 seasons).



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel physician information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada.

†No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1996-1997 through 2002-2003 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI is reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

Table 6: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 21 (May 21 – 27), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	0	0	0	0	0
K2P1V3	0	0	0	0	0
K1J9M2	0	1	0	0	0
K0H2N0	0	0	0	1	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
K7L1E9	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1C0	0	0	0	0	0
K0K1H0	0	0	0	0	0
L1A3W4	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M6G4A1	0	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M2N6H7	0	1	0	0	0
M2J2Z1	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	0	0	0
M2K1E1	0	0	0	0	0
M9W6N5	0	0	0	0	0
M9W4L6	1	0	0	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L5J2W4	0	0	0	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	1	1	3	0	0
L9W1G2	0	0	0	0	0
N1H4G2	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	0	1	1	0	0
L0R1H0	0	0	0	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
L0R1B0	2	1	0	1	0
N3R7K8	0	0	0	0	0
N3C2E2	0	0	0	0	0
N5H1K9	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
L4R4P4	0	0	0	0	0
K0J1B0	0	0	0	0	0
P4N1C6	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0T2E0	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	4	5	4	2	0
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	67.8	51.6	6.1	5.1	0.0

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

Table 7: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 22 (May 28-June 3), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	0	0	0	0	0
K2P1V3	0	1	0	0	0
K1J9M2	0	0	0	1	0
K0H2N0	0	0	0	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
L1A3W4	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M6G4A1	0	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	0	0	0
M9W4L6	1	0	0	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	0	2	0	0	0
L6V4H6	0	0	1	0	0
L9W1G2	0	0	0	0	0
L7R1M6	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	0	0	0	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
N5H1K9	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0G1L0	0	0	0	0	0
L4R4P4	0	0	0	0	0
P0H2H0	0	0	0	0	0
P0P1S0	0	0	0	0	0
P3E5V5	0	0	0	0	0
P4N1C6	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	1	3	1	1	0
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	18.5	35.3	1.9	3.2	0.0

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
   Previous issues of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* can be accessed at:
   www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_04/flubul_mn.html

2. Public Health Agency of Canada
   Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
   www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

3. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   www.cdc.gov/flu/

INFORMATION ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

For latest information on the status of avian influenza worldwide please use the following link:

Public Health Agency of Canada
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/h5n1/index.html

APPENDIX

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.
No Activity = No ILI and no laboratory-confirmed cases* or outbreaks occurred.
Sporadic: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* with NO outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region†
Localized: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)
Widespread: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior four weeks
† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day most likely due to ILI.

Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, including at least one laboratory-confirmed case.

Reporting Schedule for Influenza Activity Reports (Appendix C)

for the remaining 2005-2006 Season

Week	From --- To	Submit to MOHLTC by
19 - 20	May 7, 2006 – May 20, 2006	Tuesday May 23, 2006
21 -22	May 21, 2006 – June 3, 2006	Tuesday June 6, 2006
23 - 24	June 4, 2006 – June 17, 2006	Tuesday June 20, 2006
25 - 26	June 18, 2006 – July 1, 2006	Tuesday July 4, 2006
27 - 28	July 2, 2006 – July 15, 2006	Tuesday July 18, 2006
29 - 30	July 16, 2006 – July 29, 2006	Tuesday August 1, 2006
31 - 32	July 30, 2006 – August 12, 2006	Tuesday August 15, 2006
33 - 34	August 13, 2006 – August 26, 2006	Tuesday August 29, 2006